

Kentucky Department of Revenue Slows Tax Refund Processing Because of Additional Security and Fraud Analysis Tools

Urges taxpayers to be patient; goal to protect both taxpayers and commonwealth

FRANKFORT, Ky. – In an abundance of caution the Kentucky Department of Revenue (DOR) has slowed down issuing tax refunds due to increased identity theft and fraudulent claims, and is implementing additional security features in light of recent events at the federal level.

These new features are in addition to many safeguards the department had already put in place prior to the beginning of this year's tax filing season.

DOR has issued some refunds. However, the majority will not begin to be refunded until sometime next week.

"We understand taxpayer frustrations," said Dan Bork, commissioner of the Department of Revenue. "Our goal is to get taxpayers their money as quickly as possible. However, we must balance that with putting safeguards in place to protect them from identity theft and the commonwealth from tax fraud."

"Unfortunately fighting tax fraud is ever evolving," said Commissioner Bork. "We ask that taxpayers be patient. We would rather protect their refund than to have it end up in the hands of criminals."

For the 2014 tax year, more than 85 percent of individuals filed electronically. The department stopped more than \$16.5 million in fraudulent refund requests.

Protect Yourself from Tax-Related Identity Theft

The department reminds taxpayers to protect their personal information and actively monitor their credit reports, charge cards and bank accounts for any suspicious activity.

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses another person's stolen Social Security number (SSN) to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. Taxpayers may be unaware that this has happened until they file their return and discover that a return already has been filed using their SSN. Or the taxpayer may receive a letter from DOR or the IRS saying a suspicious return has been filed using their SSN.

Know the warning signs

Be alert to possible tax-related identity theft if you are contacted by DOR or the IRS about:

- More than one tax return that was filed for you,
- You owe additional tax, have a refund offset or have had collection actions taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return, or
- IRS or DOR records indicate you received wages or other income from an employer for whom you did not work.

For more information and resources related to identity theft, visit the Federal Trade Commission's IdentityTheft.gov website.

To contact the Kentucky Department of Revenue, call the taxpayer assistance line at 502-564-4581 or email individualincometax@ky.gov.

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